

CHI RHO

January 2022

Christ Lutheran Church

69 Mill Street, Athens, OH 45701

(740) 593-3144 www.clcathens.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Thur., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

STAFF

Pastor: Chad Huebner chad@clcathens.org

Music Director: George Weckman weckman@ohio.edu

Director of Campus Ministry: Katie Beth Miksa info@clcathens.org

Custodian: Nic Swain deadguynic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Katie Beth Miksa info@clcathens.org

***“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen
upon you” (Isaiah 60:1)***



Above: Advent Starry Night 5 © 2010 Virginia Wieringa, virginiawieringa.com
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clcathens](https://www.facebook.com/clcathens)

What's Happening at CLC?

Wed. Night Prayer • Every Wed. in January

Thanks to everyone who joined us for Advent evening prayer in the sanctuary or online. Now that we are entering Epiphany, Wednesday Night Prayer has returned in its usual form--7pm on Wednesday evenings via zoom. The link goes out in the Weekly What's Happening, but you can always email the office.

Coffee Hour • 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 9th

Happening on Zoom, Beth Longenecker will lead a discussion of the social determinants of health. We live in one of the poorest counties in the state. Residential zip code is predictive of long term health, educational and social outcomes. Come and learn what affects us and what we can do. The link will go out in the weekly What's Happening, but feel free to contact the office if needed.

Theology on Tap • 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13th

Takes place on Zoom: link will be sent in Monday What's Happening but you may also request it through the office. Discussion will center around articles found in *Living Lutheran* magazine. Contact Mike Cleland for the article names: mikercleland@gmail.com. Articles are available freely online through the *Living Lutheran* website.

Volunteers Needed • Athens County Food Pantry

Volunteers needed for Athens County Food Pantry. The shifts are 2.5 hours in the morning or afternoon, M-F, and volunteers need to be able to transport themselves to the volunteer site which is the Athens County Jobs and Family Services building outside Chauncy, OH. Training provided. Please email volunteer-coordinator@athenscountyfoodpantry.org or call 740-590-7051!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Sue Righi
	Mike Cleland
5	JoAnn Pulfer
6	Linda Loos
9	Catherine Golter
10	Marilyn Shealy
13	Ursel Maier
19	Lucy Juedes
22	Betsy Knies
23	Cherie Coutts

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Did we miss your birthday?
Let the office know so we
can celebrate with you!

Dec. 14th Council Meeting Summary

- Motion made by Mike Cleland, Chair of Personnel Committee, to hire Katie Beth Miksa as full time staff with half hours being Office Administrator and half hours being Director of Youth and Family effective Feb. 1, 2022. Appointment is through the end of this fiscal year. Motion passed unanimously. More details may be found on p. 3 of this newsletter.
- Council reviewed our upcoming property and liability insurance renewals. (Happens every three years.) Due to the continuing rise in building costs we increased the coverage on the church building from \$1,750,000 to \$2,350,000. This is the estimate on what it would take to replace the building if it is destroyed.

THANK YOU!

FROM MARY ANDREWS

Thanks for the visit from carolers as well as the artwork from the little ones. Their lovely artwork will be with my Christmas decorations for years to come.



THANK YOU!

FROM NIC, KATIE BETH AND PR. CHAD

For all the wonderful gifts
shared with staff this
Christmas. We are humbled
and grateful.

Left: Staff at Christ Lutheran



Above: Carolers at Mary Andrews' Home on Dec. 12th

Youth and Family



*Above Left: Caleb Huebner, Center: Meena Juedes and Rachel Prange
Above Right: Youth & Family and friends caroling at the Chikoskys*



***Above Left: Melody Christiansen and the Denos, Center: Cedar Thompson-Kelleher and Pr. Chad
Above Right: Pr. Chad and Cole Huebner, Lower Right: Dessa Thompson-Kelleher***



YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

While the search for a more permanent part-time director continues, we are pleased to announce that Katie Beth will shift into being part-time Director of Youth and Family and part-time Office Administrator in February of 2022 when she concludes her work in Campus Ministry. This is made possible by the generosity of both CLC and her sponsoring diocese, who let her know it was ok to stay through the end of the fiscal year before moving back to the metro DC area for seminary.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Valda Holzapfel
Jacky Brown
Lou Childress
Karen Chikosky
Carl Savage
Dick Brackin
Jo King
Joan Fucci
Dave Armstrong
*Jo Ann Pulfer
*Sammy Huwe
*Mary Andrews
*Fran Dalzell
*Art Woolley
*Homebound members

Social Ministry - Faith In Action

As part of the ELCA, we believe God's grace grants us the freedom to love and serve our neighbors, boldly responding to the needs of the world.

Hunger

Good Works Friday Night Life Dinner • February 25, 2022

Save the Date: Christ Lutheran will again be hosting the Friday Night Life supper with Good Works on February 25, 2022. Look for more information and opportunities to help out later this month!

Additionally Good Works is currently in need of volunteers. The Social Ministry Committee encourages people in our congregation to consider volunteering time or donating to Good Works, a faith based agency serving people who are temporarily homeless and other vulnerable people in our Athens community. Here is the link to learn about volunteer opportunities: <https://good-works.net/volunteer-opportunities/> To donate, go to <https://good-works.net/make-a-donation/>.



Lutheran Social Services Mobile Food Pantry Sixth Anniversary - Jan. 13th

LSS Mobile Food Pantry is coming on Thursday, January 13th at The Plains United Methodist Church. The pantry starts at 11:00 am and volunteers are need around 10:15. Christ Lutheran is adding fresh carrots to the packed shelf stable boxes in the winter months.

We're grateful to the members of the Ohio University Women's Basketball team who volunteered at the chilly December pantry. Different team members are coming to each month's pantry. We welcome their energy!



Equity and Justice

Coffee Hour • Jan. 9th, 11:30 a.m. - Happening on Zoom, Beth Longenecker will lead a discussion of the social determinants of health. We live in one of the poorest counties in the state. Residential zip code is predictive of long term health, educational and social outcomes. Come and learn what affects us and what we can do. The link will go out in the weekly What's Happening, but you can always email the office for it.

Social Ministry - Cont'd



Benevolence Spotlight: Reconciling Works

The newest Benevolence to which we at Christ Lutheran Church donate is Reconciling Works, the independent Lutheran organization that provides outreach, education, and support for Lutheran congregations who support inclusivity and reconciliation for and with people who have been traditionally marginalized because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+); along with those who are excluded because of their race, disability, or other factors. In 2019, CLC developed its own welcome statement and was recognized as Reconciling in Christ congregation. To see the congregation's statement, [click here](#).

In this relationship with ours and other committed congregations, Reconciling Works "shares Christ's message, the Gospel, which is for everyone equally." They "advocate for systemic change in policy and practice in church and society, working to alleviate not only the painful symptoms of oppression but also to eliminate its root causes." Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday happens every year the last Sunday in January, and this year the theme is Made in God's Image: God's Boundless Diversity. For more information, go to <https://reconcilingworks.org>.

For information about the ELCA's policy about sexuality go to the Social, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Human-Sexuality>.

Habitat for Humanity



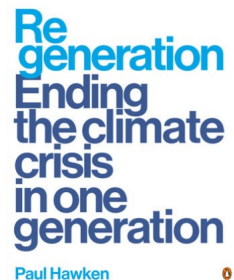
• **Heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving** are being sent to all of Habitat for Humanity's supporters and donors once again. In total the Fall 5K Fun Run, Scrap Metal Drive, and Rummage Sale raised \$5,508.50! Habitat couldn't work to eliminate substandard housing without its volunteers and donors! Thanks!

• **The next home build being sponsored by the Faith Build Coalition** will begin in the spring. Stay tuned to this location for more information coming in a few months! Meanwhile, you can volunteer for other projects by contacting Hallie Davis at 740-592-0032 or online at www.habitatseo.org.

Regeneration: Ending the climate crisis in one generation

Regeneration is the title of Buddhist scholar Paul Hawken's latest book. In our fractured society, this book brings a message of hope. The author has brought together best practices from across the globe that allow every reader to find one or more places or practices where they can take action to help mitigate the climate crisis. Chapters, by various co-authors, cover everything from electric vehicles to food safety, mangroves and coral reefs to the war industry. The broad range of topics reminds us that the climate crisis is NOT about the weather but rather about our lifestyle, our over-consumption of the planet's resources, causing depletion and death of natural systems and social systems. That is why Hawken claims there is a place for everyone in bringing about the regeneration of these systems.

Hawken offers us a new approach that pieces together scholarship and action; policy and transformational justice. The authors of this book are asking us to read their material and to then join them in an ongoing dialogue through a streaming video series, curriculum, podcasts, teaching videos, and climate action software. A few of us in the Earth-Justice Advocates Committee here at Christ Lutheran have been viewing some of the films in advance, and we will be rolling out a proposal during 2022 for members of the congregation who would like to take a deeper dive into the Regeneration material. Our committee is buying a copy of the book for our mini-library, located in the narthex, and it will be on the shelf by the first week of January. Please contact Jeanne Haseley, Carol Kuhre, Sue Righi, or Ann Sparks for more information as they are viewing the materials as they are released. Remember during this Advent season that there is Hope in our midst. Some of that hope comes from the Buddhist scholar, Paul Hawken. Thanks be to God.



Social Ministry - Cont'd

Advocacy Corner: What does plastic have to do with crackers? And how do we give them up?

A **cracker plant** is an industrial facility that uses heat and chemical processes to “crack” or break down ethane to produce ethylene, a component of plastics and other products such as textiles, paint, household cleaners and more. The PTTGCA plant in Dilley Bottom, Belmont County, is permitted and plans to use locally produced natural gas to fuel six furnaces. Ethane is one of the abundant “wet gas” components of the local natural gas stream drawn from the Utica and Marcellus shales. So far, the company is still in the phase of buying land and destroying the homes and vegetation on it to prepare for construction. It continues to look for a partner for the project.

Plastics production is of concern because it would lock in continuing extraction and use of fossil fuels and plastics cause significant health and environmental problems. **Concerned Ohio River Residents** <https://www.concernedohioriverresidents.org> is a group fighting to stop this project. They say both short- and long-term risks outweigh potential benefits to the local communities and there is nothing but risk for our warming planet. The project is becoming less economically viable as time passes. These are their targets.

- Environmental concerns are curtailing demand for petrochemical products.
- Under pressure, major petrochemical producers have pledged to reduce carbon emissions, shifting cost assumptions.
- The Appalachian feedstock pool is limited.
- Market shifts in China and across Asia will undercut U.S. cost margins.



Bullet #1 is the target of a successful Athens group **Athens ReThinks Plastics**, which has garnered praise for their work distributing over 800 bags made from recycled feed bags, educating the public through presentations and social media, and maybe most importantly, being an inspiration that change can and does happen!

What can I do?

- Tell President Biden to take executive action to reduce plastics use <https://www.plasticfreepresident.org/>
- Give up plastics. Let Athens ReThinks Plastics help you. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=athens%20rethink%20plastics>

The Bridge



Enjoy this reflection written on Galatians 3:28 by Catie Perez-Strohmeyer, a freshman Bridge Student. Catie is pictured at left.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

The Christmas season claims some of the catchiest, most recognizable, and beautiful music, enjoyed by millions around the world. Whether it's Mariah Carey or Tchaikovsky, these tunes keep us rockin around the Christmas tree for the entire month of December. However, when I read Paul's words to the people of Galatia, I am reminded of one iconic lyric: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come.” While “the world” is constantly embroiled in conflict of every flavor, from territorial disputes to economic crises, Paul's words to the Galatians remind us that Christ did not come to save only a specific ‘type.’ Part of Christ's work on Earth was to unify those who he came in contact with. He broke bread with men and women, rich and poor, sinners and saints alike. Christ did not come to bring joy just to one demographic - he came to save the entire world. God sent His son to the world in the most relatable way possible: as a helpless infant. Every single person alive today, regardless of age, class, ability, race, or orientation entered the universe in the same manner that Jesus did. We cried the same cries as Christ at our birth and gazed at everything with wonder and amusement, just as God did. As we prepare for Christ's arrival during this Advent season, I encourage us all to practice the important exercise of viewing everyone through these beginnings, keeping in mind that Christ came to save all of us - that we all share the same immense love of God from the time we take our first breath, to the time we exhale our last.

January Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Don't see your event listed? Please notify the church office of your event by the newsletter deadline: info@clcathens.org Thank you!</p>						<p>1</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Choir Practice, after worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>3</p> <p>AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Equity & Justice, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Wednesday Night Prayer, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Social Ministry, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>9</p> <p>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</p> <p>Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Choir Practice, after worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>Hospitality Hour, 11:30a.m., Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Youth & Family, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Council, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>The Bridge, 5:30p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday Night Prayer, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>LSS Mobile Food Pantry, 10:15a.m., The Plains UMC</p> <p>Theology on Tap, 6p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Choir Practice, after worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>17</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED (MLK DAY)</p> <p>AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>18</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>19</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>The Bridge, 5:30p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday Night Prayer, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>20</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Choir Practice, after worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>24</p> <p>AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Earth Justice, 5:30p.m., Zoom</p> <p>OA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>The Bridge, 5:30p.m., Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday Night Prayer, 7p.m., Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>OA, 10a.m., Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>30</p> <p>RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY</p> <p>Worship, 10a.m., Sanctuary</p> <p>Choir Practice, after worship, Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p> <p>AA, 6p.m., Fellowship Hall</p>					

Worship Assistants

Please let Katie Beth, the Office Administrator,
know in advance if you are planning to be out of town
so we can schedule accordingly: info@clcathens.org. *Thank you!*

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Asst./Lector	Steve Chikosky	Greg Newton	Ellen Peterson	Wanda Weinberg	Michael Stephens
Videographer	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn	Sam/Doug	Kay/Marilyn
Time with Children	Kay Cleland	Chery Huebner	Jana Hovland	Puppets	Chris Snoddy
Greeters	John Deno	Sue Ellen Miller	Chris Snoddy	Mike Cleland	Linda Sauer

You are listed above because of what you indicated on your *Time & Talent* sheet.

If you CAN'T make it on Sunday?

Call another person listed in this area, and see if they can switch weeks with you. Then email the church office so reminders go to the proper persons in the following weeks. If you need a list of other people in this service area to find a replacement, contact Katie Beth, the Office Administrator 740-593-3144 or info@clcathens.org.

If you no longer wish to serve in this area?

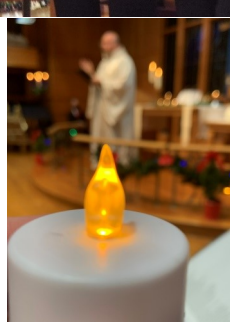
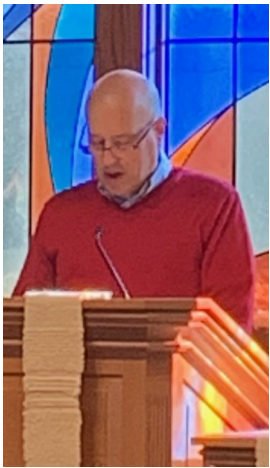
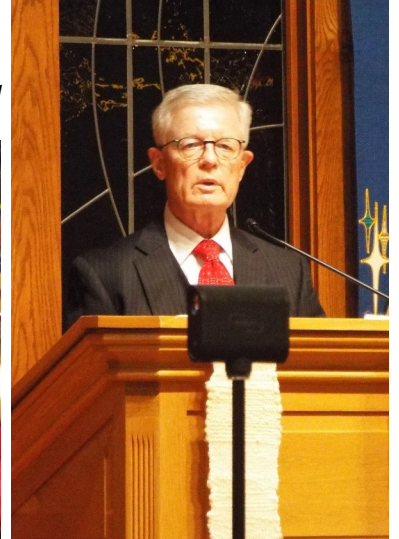
Email Katie Beth, the Office Administrator, to have your name taken off of a particular area of service or added to a new area of interest! info@clcathens.org.



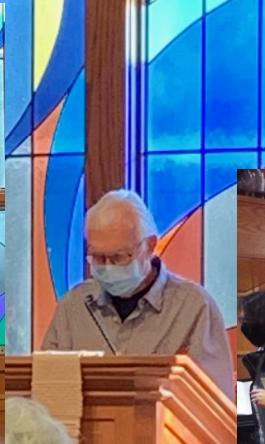
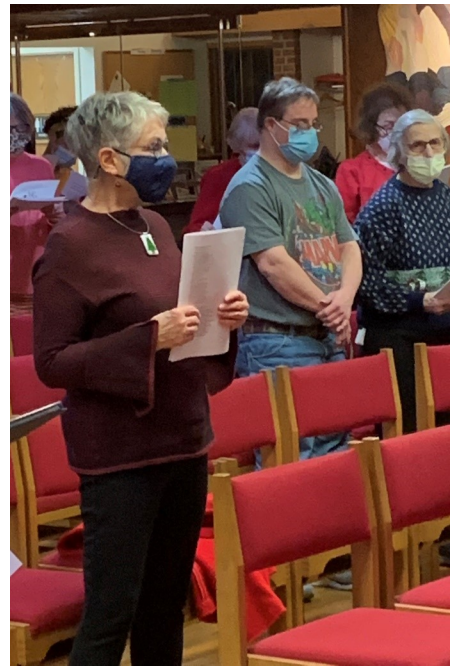
Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols Photos



THANK YOU to Jane Unger and Hank Millhorn for the gift of the beautiful silver chalice, portrayed in the photo at left, as well as the matching paten. We appreciate your generosity.



Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas!